

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a transaction mediating network including at least one a orderer and a supplier supplying products in accordance with ~~the at least one order by form said at least one orderer,~~ and a mediator mediating said transaction of product supply, said method comprising the steps of:

joining the mediator and the supplier together by ~~means of a~~ transaction relationship in accordance with a first transaction mediator/supplier price table in which the price per unit quantity of the product becomes cheaper ~~in case that as~~ the mediator orders ~~for a larger quantity as a mass~~ from the supplier;

joining the mediator and ~~at least a~~ plurality of orderers together by ~~means of a~~ transaction relationship in accordance with a second transaction orderer/supplier price table in which the price per unit quantity of the product becomes cheaper ~~in case that as~~ the at least one orderer orders ~~for a larger quantity as a mass~~ from the mediator; and

joining the at least one orderer and the supplier together by ~~the assistance of the a mediator, wherein said orderer and the supplier is joined together with the mediator for supplying a specified product only when and has a transaction relationship in accordance with the first transaction price table and the second transaction price table in which the price per unit quantity of the product in accordance with of said first transaction mediator/supplier price table is equal to or less than the price per unit quantity of the product in accordance with of said second transaction orderer/supplier price table.~~

8-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A transaction mediation system for mediating the transaction between at least one orderer and a supplier by establishing a transaction mediation network including the at least one orderer, the supplier supplying a product in response to an order from the at least one orderer and at least a mediator mediating said transaction, said system comprising:

first transaction mediator/supplier price table for storing the relationship between the quantity of the product and a price such that the price per unit quantity of the product is cheaper as the mediator orders a greater quantity from the supplier;

second transaction orderer/mediator price table for storing the relationship between the quantity of product and a price such that the price per unit quantity of the product is cheaper as the at least one orderer orders a greater quantity from the mediator; and

a transaction mediation center for initiating said transaction and storing information regarding the supplier and the at least one orderer, wherein said transaction is not initiated unless the price per unit quantity of the product of said first transaction mediator/supplier price table is equal to or less than the price per unit quantity of the product of said second transaction orderer/mediator price table.

15. (New) The transaction mediation system of claim 14, comprising:

the transaction mediation center calculating a second transaction price table, for comparison to the second transaction orderer/mediator price table of said at least one orderer, in which the price per unit quantity is greater than or equal to said first transaction mediator/supplier price table, wherein said transaction is initiated only when the second transaction orderer/mediator price table is equal to or greater than the calculated second transaction price table.

16. (New) The transaction mediation system of claim 14 or 15, wherein said at least one orderer receives an order from at least one user placing said order with said at

least one orderer, said at least one orderer having an order reception apparatus for receiving a user's order and said system comprises a transmission path for transmitting a user's order to said order reception apparatus.

17. (New) The transaction mediation system of claim 14, wherein said transaction product is printed matter, said steps further comprising:

an image producing apparatus associated with said mediator for producing an image for printing, wherein said image is produced from at least one of image information and processing steps, received from said at least one orderer; and

said supplier having a printing apparatus for producing the printed matter using said produced image received from said image producing apparatus.

18. (New) The printing mediation system of claim 17, further comprising:

a design information database associated with said mediator which includes at least one of the image information and the processing steps; and

said image producing apparatus calling at least one of the image information and the processing steps from said design information database and producing the image for printing.

19. (New) The printing mediation system of claim 18, further comprising:

said at least one orderer has an image identification apparatus for producing an image for identification, wherein said at least one orderer has a design for identification storage apparatus for storing at least a part of one of the image information and the processing steps, whereby said image identification apparatus calls at least one of the image information and the processing steps from said design information for identification storage apparatus and produces the image for identification.

20. (New) The transaction mediation system of claim 15, wherein said transaction product is printed matter, said steps further comprising:

an image producing apparatus associated with said mediator for producing an image for printing, wherein said image is produced from at least one of image information and processing steps, received from said at least one orderer; and

said supplier having a printing apparatus for producing the printed matter using said produced image received from said image producing apparatus.

21. (New) The printing mediation system of claim 20, further comprising:

a design information database associated with said mediator which includes at least one of the image information and the processing steps; and

said image producing apparatus calling at least one of the image information and the processing steps from said design information database and producing the image for printing.

22. (New) The printing mediation system of claim 21, further comprising:

said at least one orderer has an image identification apparatus for producing an image for identification, wherein said at least one orderer has a design for identification storage apparatus for storing at least a part of one of the image information and the processing steps, whereby said image identification apparatus calls at least one of the image information and the processing steps from said design information for identification storage apparatus and produces the image for identification.

23. (New) The transaction mediation system of claim 14, wherein said at least one orderer is a plurality of orderers and said orders from said at least one orderer are aggregated together by said mediator.

24. (New) The method according to claim 7, further comprising aggregating a plurality of orders from said at least one orderer together by said mediator.

25. (New) A transaction mediation system for mediating a printing transaction between at least one orderer and a supplier, said system comprising:

a reception apparatus, located at least one of said orderers, for receiving an order from at least one user;

a mediation control unit communicating with said reception apparatus to receive order information from said at least one orderer;

an image producing apparatus, for producing an image for printing, communicating with said mediation control unit;

a printing supplier communicating with said image producing apparatus to receive said image for printing via a network, said printing supplier having a printing apparatus; and

a design information database communicating with said mediation control unit and for providing at least one of image processing steps and image information used by said image producing apparatus.

26. (New) The transaction mediation system according to claim 25, wherein at least one of said orderers may aggregate orders from a plurality of users into said order communicated to said mediation control unit.

27. (New) The transaction mediation system according to claim 25, wherein said order received from said at least one orderer, at said mediation control unit includes at least one of the image information and the processing steps.

28. (New) The transaction mediation system according to claim 25, wherein said order received by said at least one orderer via said reception apparatus from at least one of said users includes at least one of the image information and the processing steps.

29. (New) The transaction mediation system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one orderer is a plurality of orderers.